Working of foreigners as pilots

730. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals working as commanders to meet the shortage of pilots; and

(b) the policy of Government to improve employment prospects of many youngsters in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) As of now there are 460 foreign nationals working as commanders to meet the shortage of pilots.

(b) The growing aviation sector provides ample employment opportunity to the trained youth. Government have also decided to upgrade the capacity of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) from 40 to 100 cadets a year and set up a new Flying Training Institute at Gondia in Maharashtra. Further, aircraft operators both scheduled and non-scheduled are permitted to employ foreign pilots as Commanders to train Indian Co-pilots so as to enable them being upgraded as Commanders. Due to shortage of appropriately licensed and type rated pilots to meet the growing demands of the industry the aircraft operators are also permitted to employ Co-pilots of foreign origin having the appropriate licence etc. Whenever both the Commander and Co-pilot in a flight are of foreign origin they are required to carry and Indian trainee pilot on board for exposing the latter to the lines oriented flying training.

Boeing company's overhaul hub at Nagpur

731. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Boeing Company is going to set a maintenance, repair overhaul hub in Nagpur for planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much time it will take to get it operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) As a part of fleet acquisition by Air